

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claim set as follows:

1. (currently amended): A mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod, wherein said mandrel has an outer surface and said mandrel comprises a self-supporting metal material jacket (22), the self-supporting metal material jacket (22) comprising an outer wall and an inner self-supporting structure, wherein the outer wall comprises an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy, ~~a metal material~~ and the inner self-supporting structure ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of at least one support strut, ~~at least one thrust or~~ and at least one annular ring, ~~wherein the at least one support strut comprises or combinations thereof, the inner self-supporting structure comprising a metal material and the metal material of the jacket comprising an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy;~~ wherein the outer wall of the self-supporting metal material jacket forms the outer surface of the mandrel.

2. (currently amended): The mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod according to claim 1, wherein the inner self-supporting structure ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises a plurality of support struts, ~~a plurality of thrusts or a plurality of annular rings or combinations thereof.~~

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (canceled)
9. (canceled)
10. (canceled)
11. (canceled)
12. (canceled)
13. (canceled)
14. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel ~~(42)~~ comprises at a rear end a biasing means adapted to assure a tight fit between a body ~~(1)~~ and the jacket ~~(22)~~.
15. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel ~~(42)~~ is axially symmetrical along its longitudinal axis.
16. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel ~~(42)~~ is a Danner blowpipe/tube or Danner sleeve.
17. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel ~~(42)~~ provides an inner channel for blowing gas through and allows treating the inside surface of the glass tube with at least one gas.
18. (canceled)
19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)

21. (canceled)

22. (previously presented): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the metal material jacket comprises a coating which upon contact with an inside surface of the tube being produced is released and accumulates on the inside surface to form a coating thereon.

23. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 1, wherein the mandrel (42) has a front end and a rear end with respect to the flow direction of a glass material and wherein diameters from the rear end to the front end are equally conical or decreasing.

24. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 23, wherein the mandrel (42) comprises essentially at the front end a fixed bearing adapted to rotate the mandrel around an axis.

25. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 23, wherein the mandrel (42) comprises essentially at the rear end a floating bearing, adapted to rotate the mandrel (42) around an axis.

26. (currently amended): The mandrel according to claim 14, wherein the biasing means comprises at least one spring (6).

27. (canceled)

28. (canceled)

29. (canceled)

30. (canceled)

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod, wherein said mandrel has an outer surface and said mandrel comprises a self-supporting metal material jacket, the self-supporting metal material jacket comprising an outer wall and an inner self-supporting structure, wherein the outer wall comprises an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy ~~a metal material~~ and the inner self-supporting structure is ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ comprises at least one support strut or at least one annular ring, or combinations thereof, ~~the inner self-supporting structure at least one strut~~ comprising a metal material ~~and the metal material of the jacket comprising an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy~~, wherein the outer wall of the self-supporting metal jacket forms the outer surface of the mandrel and wherein the mandrel has a diameter from a rear end to a front end that is either conical or continuously decreasing.

34. (new) The mandrel of claim 1 further comprising a thermal insulation material, wherein the thermal insulation material is inside the metal material jacket.

35. (new) The mandrel of claim 34, wherein the thermal insulation material has a thermal expansion coefficient that is not similar to a thermal expansion coefficient of the self-supporting metal material jacket.

36. (new) A mandrel for producing a glass tube or rod, wherein said mandrel has an outer surface and said mandrel comprises a self-supporting metal material jacket, the self-supporting metal material jacket comprising an oxide dispersion strengthened platinum alloy and an inner self-supporting structure, wherein the inner self-supporting structure

comprises a metal material and is selected from the group consisting of at least one support strut, at least one thrust, at least one annular ring and combinations thereof, wherein the outer wall of the self-supporting metal jacket forms the outer surface of the mandrel, and a thermal insulation material, wherein the thermal insulation material is inside the metal material jacket.

37. (new) The mandrel of claim 36, wherein the thermal insulation material has a thermal expansion coefficient that is not similar to a thermal expansion coefficient of the self-supporting metal material jacket.